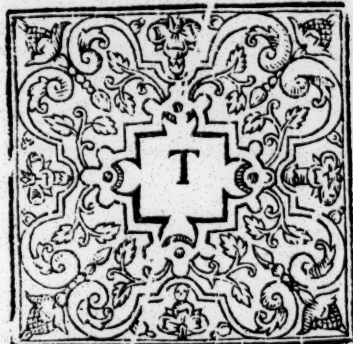


THE COTTAGE OF A LETTER

Sent out of the Netherlands, to a Gentleman

in ENGLAND, touching the present distempers of this KINGDOME,
or some particular Relations how the Affaires goe in ENGLAND,
observed by the NETHERLANDS.

Noble Sir,



YED hereunto by the many obligations of friendship received from you, during my abroad in *England*, in satisfaction of your importunity, to certifie you how we discourse here, of the great distempers of your Kingdome; and what my opinion is in particular touching the same, according to the measure of my weak abilities, and the small observations I made of the severall passages of State, which fell out whilst I sojourned with you, and my meane intelligence kept in that Kingdome since my departure thence unto this present time, I thus proceed: Our discourse (as it usual'y falls out in all Republics so) is it here, very free and various, but in the generall as wee favour the cause, so we pittie the case of your *Parliament*, that is forced to struggle so long with so many great difficulties, supported onely with the tottering foundation of the unsteady resolutions of the giddy headed multitude: And we are exceedingly transported with admiration, to heare, that so many thousands, who are so neerely concerned in their good, in the happy progresse and conclusion of that great *Consull*, and in their undoubted ill, both present and future, in the subtill interruption and fatall dissolution of that great Assembly, should be so strangely altered (upon no true ground; that wee can heare) as to cast calumnious aspersions upon those, that with so great hazard of their own lives, and Fortunes, like renowned Patriots, doe yet constantly persist, in their unwearied indeavours, to rid your Nation, from the most grievous burthen of an overgrowne Monarchy, and to suffer themselves to be so farre deluded by the cunning working of the Royalist Hierarchian and *Papist*, the three great incendiaries of your Kingdome (and indeed of all Christendome) as voluntarily to thrust their necks into the yoke, and to resigne up with their owne hands their *Religion* and *Lawes* unto those, who could never by violence have beene able to have wrested either of the twaine from out their possession, and to be talked into an undoubted slavery, under the spacious shew of a royall protection. To deliver my particular opinion, touching the Originall, and the various, and disguised waves, of advancing your unhappie Jarres, cannot be comprised within the narrow limits of an Epistle: you see the *Scots* have made a volume of theirs, and I recommend it to you as a peece worth your reading, and whence (I beleieve) your owne Ingenuity will be able to gather, more satisfaction in these particulars then I shall ever bee able out of my poore observations to acquaint you with. For though it was the businesse of another Kingdome, and is now happily composed, and may therefore seeme either not to concerne *England* at all, or at least not at this time, yet if you paralell the passages there, with those that have happened with you some yeares past, and especially since your *Parliament* beganne, you will easily beleieve, that if not one man, yet men of the same mind, laid the Machavillian ground work of both your disturbances, and how many other things soever have in shew bin offered as happy meanes to maintaine *Monarchy* and *Hierarchy*, yet there were two other whites onely shot at, the silencing of the *Lawes*, and the alteration of the *Religion* in both Kingdomes. The maine block in the way to hinder these designs, we say is your fixed *Parliament*, and are therefore perswaded, that what ever else may be pretended, yet the drift of the plot at present on foot is this, to cause that great Assembly by little and little of it selfe, to languish unto that death, unto which by violence its enemies is not yet able to bring it, and therein to make good the Proverb, to doe that by the Fox which is not feisable by the Lyon. For my owne sence of the businesse thus much in short, The ambitious *Clergie* will (never willingly) hearken to any alteration, (for the better) much lesse to a perfect Reformation in the Church, and in this the *Papist* and Libertine will certainly joyne hands with them: The Royalist will hinder (in what bee may) the purging of the State, and he will be backed by *Dauids* guard (though in a far greater multitude) mentioned, 1 *Sam.* 22. *Cap.* 6. 2. And for the foolish neutrall, that hopes to have his throat last cut, it is likely, he is not an inconsiderable part of the Kingdome, so that now if you can conceive that the remainder is a stronger and as resolute a party as these, there is good hopes of a good Conclusion, else without the omnipotent hand of Heaven miraculously assisting, I feare that a short lived man may live to heare, that the bravery of the renowned *English* walkes hand in hand with the sordid vassalage, of the French and Spanish Nations; And that the Language of your *Magna Charta*, and *Leges, & consuetudinis Regni* bee translated into

Sic volo, sic jubeo, stat pro ratione voluntas.

The Jarre of which string because I know it must needs grate your eare, I will forbear any more to strike it, and doe heartily wish and pray it may for ever bee dumb, as I will be for the present, after I have onely said

Noble Sir I am

Ultra traieci.

18. Junii Stilo veteri.

Your humble Servant

Abraham Waersegger.